

# Education: A Promising Solution to Reduce Poverty

Matthew Isaac, Ph.D.

District Director

Economic Development and Corporate Training  
San Bernardino Community College District



# Definition of Poverty

"A person deprived of things that everyone around him has is likely to suffer a sense of inadequacy, a loss of dignity and self-respect."<sup>1</sup>

"Poverty is really the lack of freedom to have or to do basic things that you value,"<sup>2</sup> said Amartya Sen, the 1998 Nobel Laureate in Economics.

In 2006, the federal poverty line for a family of four was about \$20,000

<sup>1</sup>Benjamin I. Page and James R. Simmons, political scientists at Northwestern University and the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, respectively, and the authors of What Government Can Do. (University of Chicago Press)

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Marilyn Kaff & Dr. Mary Devin, Understanding Educational Implications of Poverty, PowerPoint Presentation

# Conditions of Poverty

- One in six Californians is hungry <sup>1</sup>
- San Bernardino ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of the 58 counties in California in poverty
- Poverty occurs in all races
- Generational poverty <sup>2</sup>
- Situational poverty <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>California Food Policy Advocates

<sup>2</sup> & <sup>3</sup> Dr. Ruby Payne, [A Framework for Understanding Poverty](#)

# Causes of Poverty

- Economic distress caused by business and Military Base closures - situational poverty
- Low literacy for adults (not being able to read, write, speak and compute)
- Lack of life skills
- Low levels of educational attainment
- Unemployment and low wages
- Crime, substance abuse, disability, ill health
- Wealth distribution

## Distribution of Wealth in the U.S., 2001

**Top 1% own 33%**  
**Next 4% own 26%**  
**Next 5% own 12%**

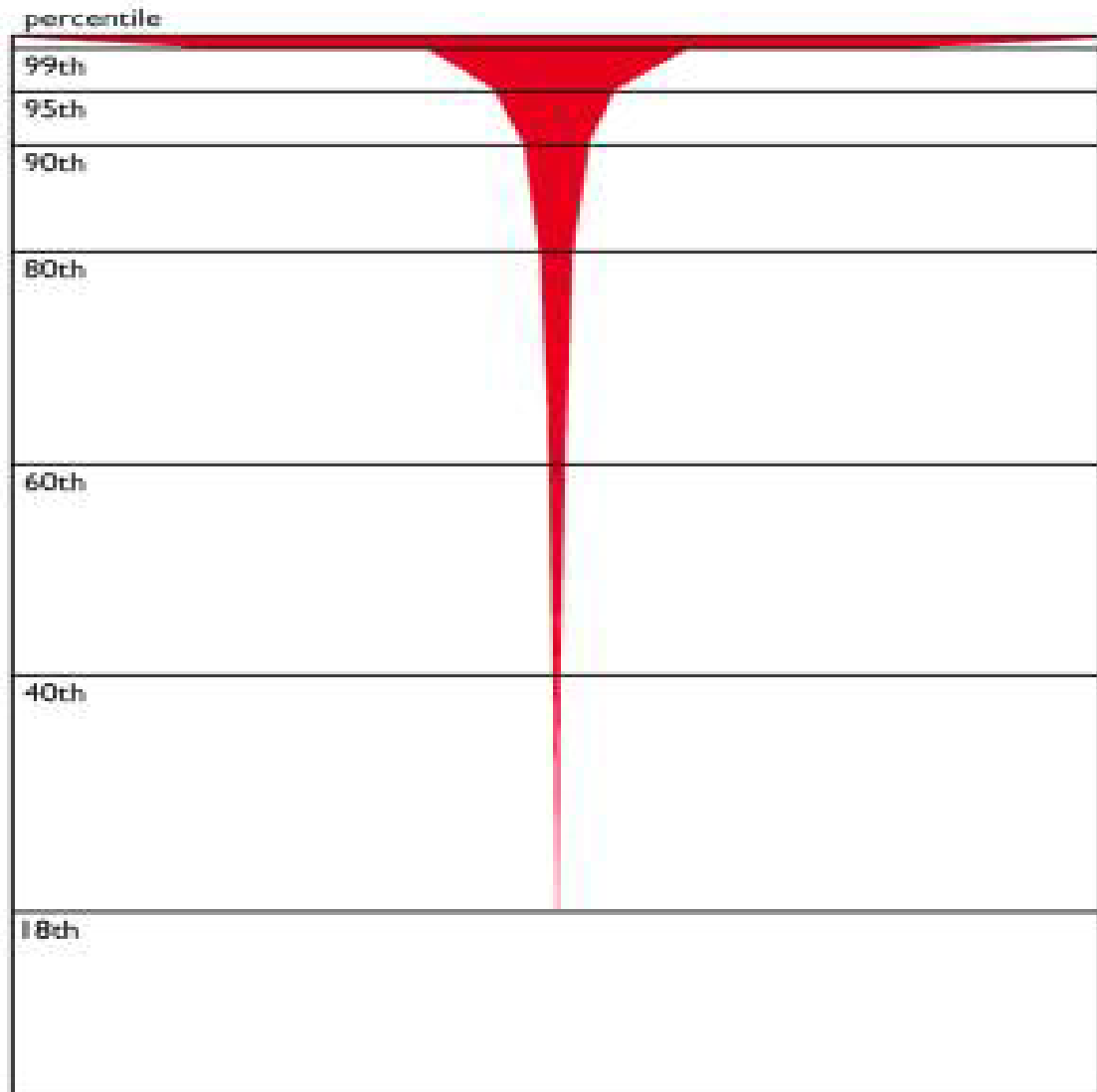
**Next 10% own 13%**

**Next 20% own 11%**

**Middle 20% own 4%**

**Next 22% own 0.3%**

**Bottom 18% have zero  
or negative net worth**

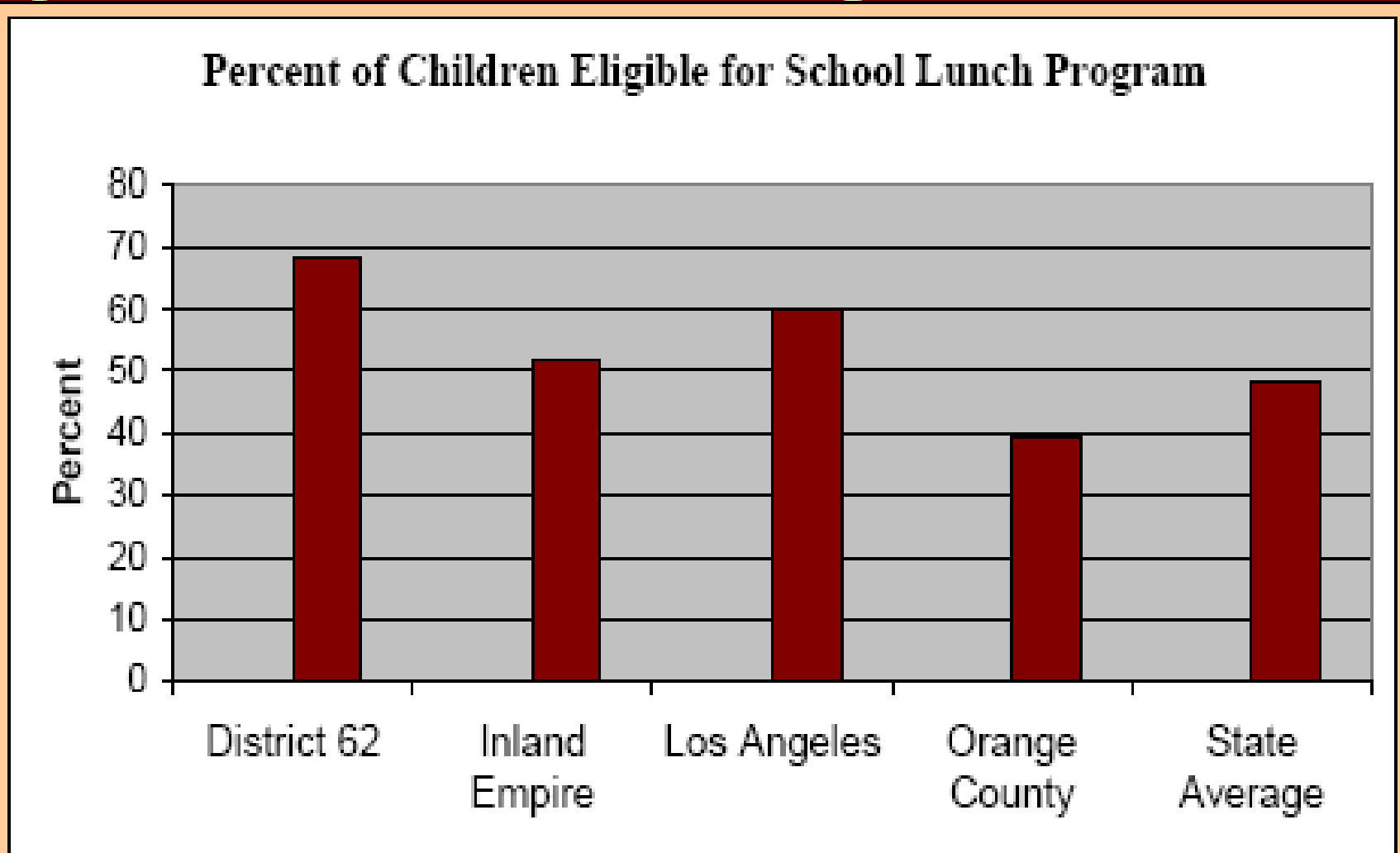


# Poverty Status Of Families By Family Type By Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years By Age

	Adelanto	Colton	Hesperia	Rialto	San Bernardino City	Victorville	Inland Region	San Bernardino County
<b>2005 Est. Families by Poverty Status</b>	4,293	11,425	17,550	21,237	42,422	19,035	115,962	440,332
<b>Income in 2005 Below Poverty Level:</b>	20.71%	18.72%	11.71%	14.03%	24.66%	15.18%	18.47%	12.82%
<b>Married-couple family:</b>	9.74%	7.77%	5.19%	6.86%	8.87%	6.31%	7.45%	5.46%
<b>With related children under 18 years:</b>	8.62%	5.95%	4.00%	5.99%	7.46%	4.51%	6.08%	4.27%
<b>No related children under 18 years</b>	1.12%	1.82%	1.19%	0.87%	1.41%	1.80%	1.37%	1.19%
<b>Other family:</b>	10.97%	10.95%	6.52%	7.17%	15.79%	8.87%	11.02%	7.36%

Source: 2005 Claritas/D. Bahl, USC

## Percent of Children Eligible for School Lunch Program in the Service Area (District 62) of San Bernardino Valley College



**Note:** Data from 2000 U.S. Census (Educational and Demographic Profile – California Postsecondary Education Commission)

Poverty level of school (percent free or reduced lunch)	Fourth grade math scores	Fourth grade science scores	Eighth grade math scores	Eighth grade science scores
Less than 10% in poverty (schools with wealthy students)	567	579	547	571
10% - 24.9% in poverty	543	567	531	554
25% - 49.9% in poverty	533	551	505	529
50% - 74.9% in poverty	500	519	480	504
75% or more in poverty (schools with poor students)	471	480	444	461
US Average Score	518	536	504	527
International Average Score	495	489	466	473

Chart from TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) 2003,  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

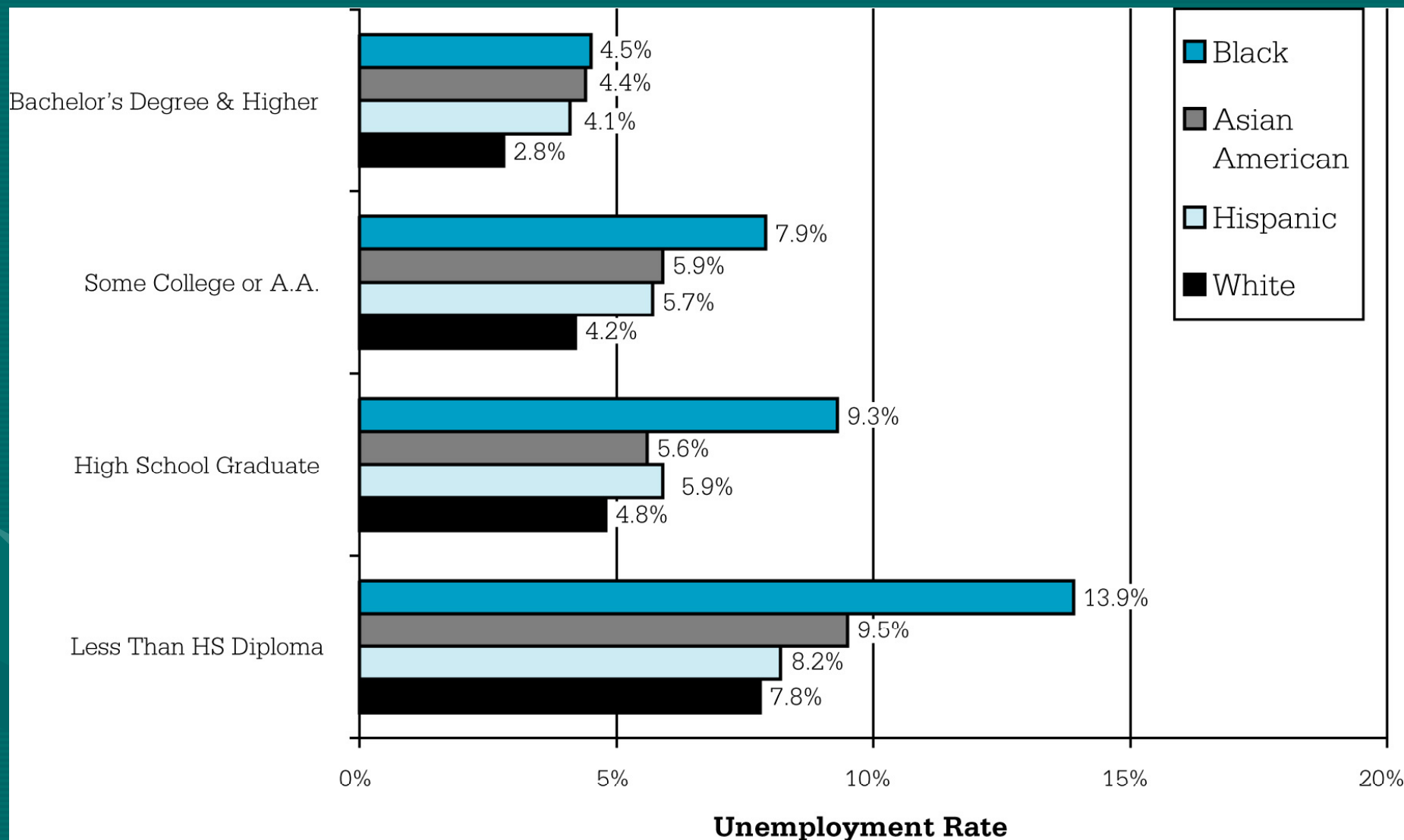


# 2006 Estimated Population Age 25+ by Educational Attainment

	Adelanto	Colton	Hesperia	Rialto	San Bernardino City	Victorville	Inland Region	San Bernardino County
<b>2005 Est. Pop. Age 25+ by Educational Attainment</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>28,699</b>	<b>41,642</b>	<b>52,913</b>	<b>109,880</b>	<b>44,922</b>	<b>289,410</b>	<b>1,117,712</b>
<b>Less than 9th grade</b>	<b>10.93%</b>	<b>15.01%</b>	<b>8.77%</b>	<b>14.59%</b>	<b>14.80%</b>	<b>7.55%</b>	<b>12.64%</b>	<b>10.49%</b>
<b>Some High School, no diploma</b>	<b>20.81%</b>	<b>16.41%</b>	<b>18.66%</b>	<b>18.80%</b>	<b>20.95%</b>	<b>15.57%</b>	<b>18.94%</b>	<b>15.38%</b>
<b>High School Graduate (or GED)</b>	<b>29.70%</b>	<b>24.89%</b>	<b>30.76%</b>	<b>27.59%</b>	<b>25.41%</b>	<b>29.70%</b>	<b>27.36%</b>	<b>25.01%</b>
<b>Some College, no degree</b>	<b>27.52%</b>	<b>24.12%</b>	<b>26.93%</b>	<b>23.75%</b>	<b>21.73%</b>	<b>28.60%</b>	<b>24.38%</b>	<b>25.69%</b>
<b>Associate Degree</b>	<b>5.10%</b>	<b>7.38%</b>	<b>6.89%</b>	<b>6.55%</b>	<b>5.71%</b>	<b>7.96%</b>	<b>6.53%</b>	<b>7.55%</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<b>4.11%</b>	<b>8.36%</b>	<b>5.38%</b>	<b>6.41%</b>	<b>7.54%</b>	<b>6.89%</b>	<b>6.87%</b>	<b>10.42%</b>
<b>Master's Degree</b>	<b>1.37%</b>	<b>1.87%</b>	<b>1.62%</b>	<b>1.57%</b>	<b>2.36%</b>	<b>2.74%</b>	<b>2.08%</b>	<b>3.57%</b>
<b>Professional School Degree</b>	<b>0.46%</b>	<b>1.54%</b>	<b>0.70%</b>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>1.04%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>	<b>0.87%</b>	<b>1.35%</b>
<b>Doctorate Degree</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.41%</b>	<b>0.29%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>0.46%</b>	<b>0.34%</b>	<b>0.34%</b>	<b>0.55%</b>

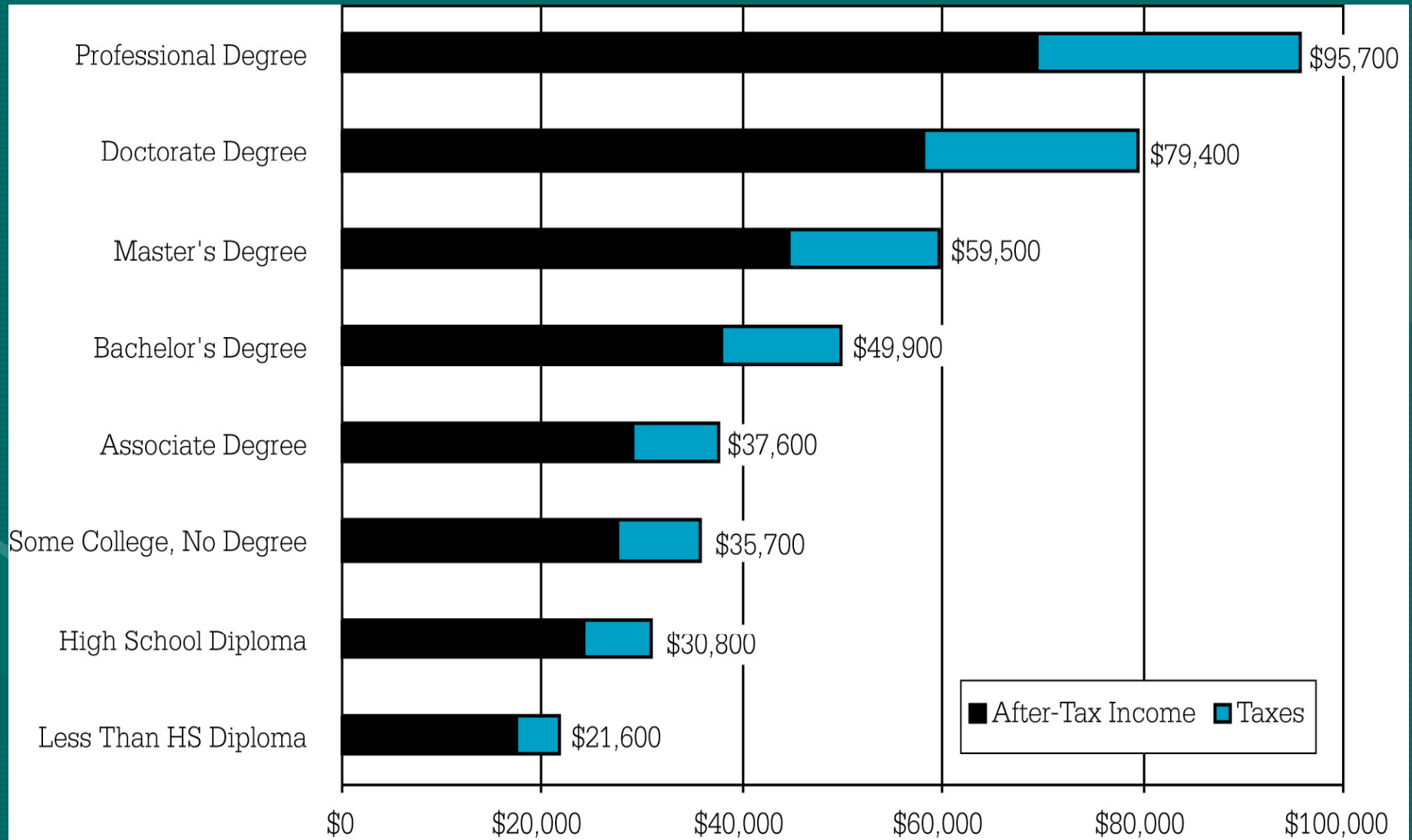
Source: 2005 Claritas/D. Bahl, USC

# Unemployment Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Education Level, 2003



Source: CollegeBoard Trends in Higher Education Series 2004/Monthly Labor Review 2004

# Median Earnings and Tax Payments by Level of Education, 2003

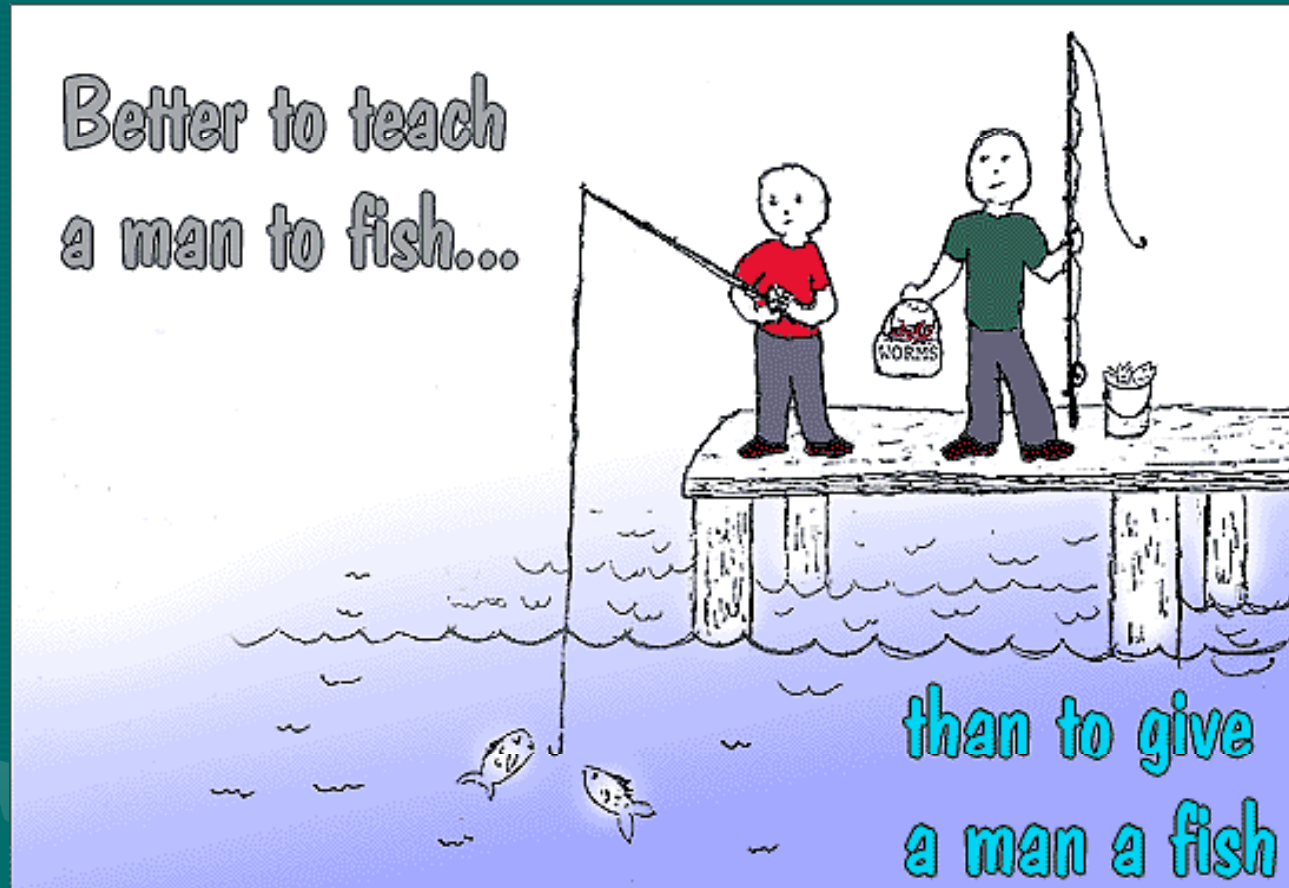


Source: CollegeBoard Trends in Higher Education Series 2004/IRS 2003

# How do you Break the Cycle of Poverty?

EDUCATION and  
TRAINING Leading to JOBS

**“Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime”- Chinese Proverb**



**“Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you can sell him fishing equipment.”  
Author unknown**

# Successful Programs/Best Practices for Economically Disadvantaged

- Soft Skills and Vocational Training programs (job-specific) in a non-judgmental environment
- Improved the participants' life skills (vision, new world view, motivation, self-esteem, and attitude for empowerment)
- Training designed to meet needs of local employers (e.g. Warehousing, Logistics, Computer Software training)
- Trained for jobs with a future/career advancement
- Success due to synergy of partners like HACSB, Workforce Development Department (WDD) and WIB

# Community College Resources

- San Bernardino Valley College, CRAFTON HILLS College, Professional Development Center (PDC)
- Very affordable fee of \$20 per unit of credit
- Offer variety of financial aid, including BOG waiver
- Counseling, CalWORKs and placement services
- Basic and Life Skills development programs
- PDC offers customized training solutions and short-term vocational training programs

# Community College's Role

- Committed to the economic well-being of our residents in breaking the cycle of poverty through education.
- “Open Access” regardless of economic status
- Remedial education for “catch up”
- Offer very affordable career education programs and meaningful job-specific training programs
- Support services to special populations (CalWORKs)
- A caring environment for all students





## **Matthew Isaac, Ph.D.**

Dr. Matthew Isaac is District Director of the Division of Economic Development and Corporate Training at the San Bernardino Community College District. As the District Director of an independent division, he is responsible for providing leadership to offer a wide variety of economic development and corporate training programs that serve over 8,000 incumbent workers per year. Dr. Isaac's previous assignments at the District included serving as Director of the Professional Development Center, Director of the Regional Center for Business Excellence and Director of the Institute for Training and Development at the San Bernardino Valley College. Prior to joining the District, Dr. Isaac served as the Director of Health Care Programs and as a Divisional Director at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

Dr. Isaac has received several leadership awards during his career. The most notable among them was the 1998 Program Excellence Award from the Ohio Continuing Higher Education Association (OCHEA) for his leadership in delivering outstanding corporate training programs to the Ford Motor Company. He served as the Primary Investigator of several state and federal grants. During his tenure, he provided leadership in receiving over \$7 million in funds from state and federal government or corporate agencies.

Dr. Isaac holds a Ph.D., an M.A. and M.A. Ed. from the University of Toledo in Ohio, an M.A. from Christ Church College and a Bachelor of Science degree from Kerala University.

# For more information, please call:

## San Bernardino Community College District

Professional Development Center (PDC): (909) 382-4001

Web: [www.pdctraining.org](http://www.pdctraining.org)

San Bernardino Valley College: (909) 384-4400

Web: [www.valleycollege.edu](http://www.valleycollege.edu)

Crafton Hills College: (909) 794-2161

Web: [www.craftonhills.edu](http://www.craftonhills.edu)

KVCR FM/TV: (909) 384-4444

Web: [www.kvcr.org](http://www.kvcr.org)